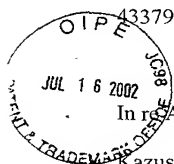


PATENT



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Kazushi TORII et al.

Serial No.: 10/053,659

Filed: January 24, 2002

For: WATER-ABSORBING AGENT AND  
PRODUCTION PROCESS THEREFOR, AND  
WATER-ABSORBENT STRUCTURE

Group Art Unit: 1773

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SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 and § 1.98, Applicants bring the disclosures attached and listed on completed Form PTO-1449 to the Examiner's attention and request that they be considered and made of record in this application.

The enclosed patents were cited in Applicants' corresponding PCT application, and a copy of the International Search Report dated April 23, 2002 is enclosed.

JP-A-342963/2000 and corresponding U.S. Patent No. 5,797,893, JP-A-95955/2000, WO 99/25393 A2 and JP-A-003123/1997, which were cited in the enclosed search report were submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement filed in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on January 24, 2002. Accordingly, copies of these document cited in the enclosed International Search Report are not being enclosed.

Applicant is submitting partial translations of JP-A-095955/2000, JP-A-003123/1997, JP-B2-P3107909 and JP-A-000370/1994, which documents were submitted with the

Information Disclosure Statement filed in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on January 24, 2002.

Since the enclosed patents were cited in the International Search Report not more than three months prior to the submission of this Information Disclosure Statement, it is believed that no fee is required for consideration of these patents. However, the Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may become due in connection with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 18-2220.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: Jan 16, 2002

